30th January 1931]

Alleged supply of dailies to European and Anglo-Indian prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*261 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) on what authority the Superintendent, Madras Penitentiary, gave permission on the 12th October to the Toc H Society Father and Mr. Brooke Elliot to supply *Daily Mirror*, a daily paper, to the 'C' class European and Anglo-Indian convicts; and

(b) why he allowed all sorts of magazines and other papers to them all these months when similar privileges were refused to Indian 'C' class convicts?

A.—(a) & (b) The information has been called for.

Alleged beating of prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*262 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary beats the convicts or gets them beaten;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shaik Imam and Chella Narasinga Rao convicted in connexion with civil disobedience movement and since released were beaten by the Superintendent for their inability to work the oil press; and

(c) what were the reasons of the Superintendent for resorting to such an action?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.
(c) Does not arise.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is it not a fact that the Superintendent struck one of the convicts in the presence of Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti, one of the Visitors to the jail?"

Mr. hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"A definite answer has been given to this question in the printed list, and that is that he did not."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is the hon. Law Member aware of the fact that Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has also reported this incident to the Inspector-General of Prisons?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Then, will the hon. Law Member make an inquiry into that?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid there is no need for it; because, the Inspector-General in his report definitely states that this incident has not taken place."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"My question is whether the hon. Law Member will inquire whether Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has complained of this incident to the Inspector-General of Prisons?"